

Amended Claims

1-15. (Canceled) .

16. (New) An inkjet printing mechanism, comprising: first and second inkjet printheads movable between printing and servicing regions, wherein:

the first printhead dispenses a first ink formulation comprising first components and solid components which form dried ink residue after the first components evaporate, and

the second printhead dispenses a second ink formulation comprising second components and other components which remain as non-dried ink sludge after the second components evaporate; and

a spittoon within the servicing region configured to accumulate a puddle of the first ink formulation therein followed by spitting the second ink formulation into said puddle, and to splatter the second ink formulation out of said puddle for evaporation of the said second components and accumulation of said non-dried ink sludge beyond said puddle.

17. (New) An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 16, wherein said spittoon comprises:

plural adjoining side walls each having a lower edge, and an upper edge which define a mouth sized to receive ink from only a single one of said first and second printheads at a given time; and

a catch basin joining together the lower edge of each side wall to form a liquid containing structure, with the catch basin comprising a bottom wall and at least one

tapered wall extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall to join the lower edge of one of said plural side walls.

18. (New) An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 16, wherein said spittoon comprises:

an ink spit receiving structure defining a mouth sized to receive ink from only a single one of said first and second printheads at a given time;

an ink accumulating structure coupled to receive ink from the ink spit receiving structure, the accumulating structure having a bottom wall with an area sized smaller than the mouth size; and

an ink transfer structure extending from the ink spit receiving structure to the ink accumulating structure, comprising side walls which taper downwardly and inwardly from the mouth to join the bottom wall.

19. (New) An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 16, wherein said spittoon comprises an ink receiving structure defining a mouth sized to surround a spitting location where said printheads separately spit ink into the spittoon, a catch basin having a bottom wall sized smaller than the mouth, and a pair of opposing side walls each tapering upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall toward the mouth.

20. (New) A method of purging first and second inkjet printheads, comprising:

spitting a first ink formulation at a spitting location into a catch basin;

puddling the first ink formulation as a puddle in the catch basin;

spitting a second ink formulation at said spitting location toward said puddle; and

upon impact with said puddle, dissipating the second ink formulation through splashing onto a side wall of the catch basin.

21. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein said first ink formulation comprises first components and solid components which from dried ink residue after the first components evaporate, and said second ink formulation comprises second components and other components which remain as non-dried ink residue after the second components evaporate, further comprising, following said dissipating:

evaporating said first and second components;

first leaving said solid components as dried ink residue along a lower portion of the catch basin; and

second leaving at least a portion of said other components as non-dried ink residue along said side wall.

22. (New) A method according to claim 21, further comprising, following said evaporating, repeating said spitting and puddling of the first ink formulation, and said spitting and dissipating of the second ink formulation.

23. (New) A method according to claim 21, wherein:

said spitting location comprises the catch basin having a bottom wall with said side wall tapering upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall;

following said splashing, further comprising collecting a portion of said second ink formulation on said tapering

side wall until the second components evaporate therefrom; and

clinging said non-dried ink residue on said tapering side wall.

24. (New) A method according to claim 21, wherein:  
said spitting location comprises an ink receiving structure defining a mouth, with the catch basin having a bottom wall sized smaller than the mouth, and with said side wall tapering upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall toward the mouth;

collecting a portion of said second ink formulation on said tapering side wall until the second components evaporate therefrom; and

accumulating at least a portion of said non-dried ink residue on said tapering side wall.

25. (New) A method of purging ink from plural inkjet printheads, comprising:

spitting a first formulation ink from a first printhead at a spitting location into a spittoon;

accumulating the first formulation ink in the spittoon until a puddle is formed;

spitting a second formulation ink from a second printhead at the spitting location toward the accumulated puddle of the first formulation ink; and

upon impact with said puddle, splashing the second formulation of ink onto a tapering side wall of the spittoon.

26. (New) A method according to claim 25, wherein:

said spittoon comprises an ink receiving structure defining a mouth sized to surround said spitting location, a catch basin having a bottom wall sized smaller than the mouth, and a pair of opposing side walls each tapering upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall toward the mouth, wherein said first formulation ink comprises first evaporatable components and solid components which remain as dried ink residue after evaporation of said first evaporatable components, and wherein said second formulation ink comprises second evaporatable components and other components which remain and non-dried ink residue after evaporation of said second evaporatable components; and, further comprising:

    collecting a portion of said second ink formulation on said pair of side walls until the second evaporatable components evaporate therefrom; and

    accumulating at least a portion of said non-dried ink residue on said tapering pair of side walls.

27. (New) A spittoon for receiving ink spit from plural inkjet printheads, comprising:

    plural adjoining side walls each having a lower edge, and an upper edge which define a mouth sized to receive ink from only a single one of said plural printheads at a given time; and

    a catch basin joining together the lower edge of each side wall to form a liquid containing structure, with the catch basin comprising a bottom wall and at least one tapered wall extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall to join the lower edge of one of said plural side walls.

28. (New) A spittoon according to claim 27, wherein said plural adjoining side walls are substantially upright.

29. (New) A spittoon according to claim 27, wherein the catch basin includes a second tapered wall opposite said one tapered wall, with the second tapered wall extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall to join the lower edge of a second one of said plural side walls opposite said one of said plural side walls.

30. (New) A spittoon according to claim 27, wherein said plural adjoining side walls define said mouth with a substantially rectangular shape.

31. (New) A spittoon for receiving ink spit from plural inkjet printheads, comprising:

an ink spit receiving structure defining a mouth sized to receive ink from only a single one of said plural printheads at a given time;

an ink accumulating structure coupled to receive ink from the ink spit receiving structure, the accumulating structure having a bottom wall with an area sized smaller than the mouth size; and

an ink transfer structure extending from the ink spit receiving structure to the ink accumulating structure, comprising side walls which taper downwardly and inwardly from the mouth to join the bottom wall.

32. (New) A spittoon according to claim 31, wherein the ink spit receiving structure includes plural adjoining side walls which are substantially upright, with each sidewall having an upper edge which define said mouth.

33. (New) A spittoon according to claim 31, wherein the ink accumulating structure includes a pair of opposing angled side walls which extend angularly away from the bottom wall.

34. (New) A spittoon according to claim 31, wherein said mouth has a substantially rectangular shape.

35. (New) A spittoon according to claim 31, wherein:

the ink spit receiving structure includes plural adjoining side walls which are substantially upright, with each having an upper edge which define said mouth;

said mouth has a substantially rectangular shape;

said bottom wall has a substantially rectangular shape;

and

the ink accumulating structure includes a pair of opposing angled side walls which extend angularly away from the bottom wall.

36. (New) An inkjet printing mechanism, comprising:

plural inkjet printheads movable across a printzone and into a servicing region; and

a spittoon within the servicing region comprising plural side walls each having a lower edge, and an upper edge which define a mouth sized to receive ink from only a single one of said plural printheads at a given time, and a catch basin joining together the lower edge of each side wall to form a liquid containing structure, with the catch basin comprising a bottom wall and at least one tapered wall extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall to join the lower edge of one of said plural side walls.

37. (New) An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 36, wherein the catch basin comprises a pair of opposing tapered walls each extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall to the lower edge of each of a pair of opposing side walls of said plural side walls.

38. (New) An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 36, wherein said plural side walls are substantially upright, and said plural side walls define said mouth with a substantially rectangular shape.

39. (New) An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 36, wherein:

a first of said plural inkjet printheads dispenses a first ink formulation comprising first components and solid components which form dried ink residue after the first components evaporate;

a second of said plural inkjet printheads dispenses a second ink formulation comprising second components and other components which remain as non-dried ink residue sludge after the second components evaporate; and

the catch basin comprises a structure which, upon accumulating a puddle of the first ink formulation therein, followed by spitting the second ink formulation into said puddle, causes the second ink formulation to splatter onto said at least one tapered wall for evaporation of said second components and accumulation of at least a portion of said non-dried ink residue thereon.